

# David Ige

**David Yutaka Ige** (/ˈiːɡeɪ/; born January 15, 1957) is an American politician serving as the eighth governor of Hawaii. A Democrat, he previously served in the Hawaii State Senate. In the 2014 gubernatorial election, he won the Democratic primary over incumbent Governor Neil Abercrombie, and the general election over Republican nominee Duke Aiona. He was reelected in 2018.

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## Early life and college

Ige was born and raised in Pearl City, Hawaii, the fifth of six sons of Tokio and Tsurue Ige, who are of Okinawan descent.<sup>[1]</sup> During World War II, Tokio served in the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team<sup>[2]</sup> and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. After the war, Tokio Ige worked as an ironworker on

David Ige



**8th Governor of Hawaii**

**Incumbent**

**Assumed office**

December 1, 2014

**Lieutenant** Shan Tsutsui  
Doug Chin  
Josh Green

**Preceded by** Neil Abercrombie

**Member of the Hawaii Senate**  
**from the 16th district**

**In office**

January 15, 2003 – December 1, 2014

**Preceded by** Norman Sakamoto

**Succeeded by** Breene Harimoto

**Member of the Hawaii Senate**  
**from the 17th district**

**In office**

January 15, 1995 – January 15, 2003

**Preceded by** Eloise Tungpalan

construction projects while Tsurue Ige worked as a nurse and dental hygienist. Tokio Ige died in 2005 at age 86. Tsurue, now retired, resides in Pearl City.

David Ige attended public schools in Pearl City—Pearl City Elementary School, Highlands Intermediate School, and Pearl City High School—and participated in community sports, playing in the Pearl City Little League for eight years. At the newly built Pearl City High School, Ige excelled in many activities. In his junior year he was elected student body vice president, and he served as senior class president the next year. His campaign for student body president stressed diversity and an end to bullying. Ige also led his varsity tennis team to a championship and was honored as the "Scholar-Athlete of the Year." He graduated fifth in his class of more than 500 students in 1975.<sup>[3]</sup>

Ige was accepted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. At UH he served as student body secretary and an officer of several honor societies as well as treasurer and vice-president of his fraternity, Phi Delta Sigma.

Ige met his wife, Dawn, at the University of Hawaii. They have three children: Lauren, Amy, and Matthew.


## Engineering career

After college, while working for GTE Hawaiian Tel, Ige took graduate courses at UH and earned a Master of Business Administration degree in *decisions sciences*. In 1986 Hawaii Business Magazine named him one of the university's Top 10 MBA students.

Before being elected governor of Hawaii, Ige served as project manager with Robert A. Ige and Associates, Inc., Vice President of engineering at NetEnterprise, and senior principal engineer at Pihana Pacific, which established the first world-class data center and carrier-neutral Internet exchange in Hawaii and the Pacific. Before that, he worked as an engineer for GTE Hawaiian Tel for more than 18 years.

## Political career

Ige was originally appointed to the Hawaii House of Representatives on December 2, 1985, by Governor George Ariyoshi after Representative Arnold Morgado resigned to run for a seat on the Honolulu City Council.<sup>[4][5]</sup> He served in the Hawaii State Senate from 1995 to 2015.<sup>[6]</sup> During his legislative career, Ige served as chair of nine different committees.<sup>[7]</sup> He focused much of his career as a legislator on information and telecommunications policy,<sup>[7]</sup> and co-authored the Hawaii Telecommunications and Information Industries Act that established the state information network and created the Hawaii

<b>Succeeded by</b>	<u>Ron Menor</u>
<b>Member of the Hawaii House of Representatives from the 34th district</b>	
<b>In office</b>	
January 15, 1993 – January 15, 1995	
<b>Preceded by</b>	<u>Suzanne Chun</u> <u>Oakland</u>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	<u>Mark Takai</u>
<b>Member of the Hawaii House of Representatives from the 43rd district</b>	
<b>In office</b>	
December 2, 1985 – January 15, 1993	
<b>Preceded by</b>	<u>Arnold Morgado</u>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	<u>Henry Haalilio Peters</u>
<b>Personal details</b>	
<b>Born</b>	<u>David Yutaka Ige</u> January 15, 1957 <u>Pearl City, Hawaii, U.S.</u>
<b>Political party</b>	<u>Democratic</u>
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<u>Dawn Amano</u>
<b>Children</b>	3
<b>Residence</b>	<u>Governors' Residence</u>
<b>Education</b>	<u>University of Hawaii, Manoa (BS, MBA)</u>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Website</b>	<u>Government website (http://governor.hawaii.gov)</u>

Information Network Corporation. Ige was at the center of Hawaii's efforts to diversify its economy. He was responsible for establishing seed capital and venture capital programs, software development initiatives, and technology transfer programs.

## 2012 reelection campaign

Ige was reelected to the Hawaii State Senate in 2012, defeating Republican challenger and former U.S. Naval Air crewman, Army Captain, and small business executive Mike Greco.<sup>[8]</sup> Greco was the first challenger Ige faced in a general election in over a decade.<sup>[9]</sup>

## 2014 campaign for governor

Ige ran against incumbent Neil Abercrombie in the Democratic primary for the 2014 gubernatorial election, after Abercrombie upset the supporters of late US senator Daniel Inouye by ignoring his wish to be replaced by Colleen Hanabusa.<sup>[6]</sup><sup>[10]</sup> Though outspent in the race, Ige defeated Abercrombie, 66% to 31%.<sup>[11]</sup><sup>[12]</sup><sup>[13]</sup> Ige's victory made him the first candidate to ever defeat an incumbent governor of Hawaii in a primary election.<sup>[14]</sup>

Ige faced Republican Duke Aiona and Independent Mufi Hannemann in the general election. He won by 12 percentage points.<sup>[15]</sup>

# Governor of Hawaii

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## Inauguration

Ige was sworn in as the eighth governor of Hawaii on December 1, 2014, with Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui, in the Hawaii State Capitol Rotunda.<sup>[16]</sup> Ige is the first person of Okinawan descent to be elected governor of a U.S. state.<sup>[17]</sup>

Governor Ige's inauguration theme of "honoring the past and charting a new tomorrow" was on display throughout the ceremony, which paid tribute to his father who served in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. Army during World War II alongside the late U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye.<sup>[16]</sup>



Inauguration of David Ige as 8th Governor of Hawaii

## Gubernatorial tenure

In October 2015 Ige declared a state of emergency due to the escalating scale of the homelessness problem; in 2015 Hawaii had the highest rate of homeless persons per capita in the United States.<sup>[18]</sup> In June 2017, following President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change, Ige signed two bills that respectively committed the state to meeting regardless its greenhouse gas emission targets under the Paris Agreement and established a carbon reduction and soil health task force.<sup>[19]</sup>

After an incoming missile alert was erroneously sent to all smartphones in the state and broadcast over local television and radio on January 13, 2018, Ige apologized for the mistake,<sup>[20]</sup> which he attributed to human error during a shift change at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. He pledged to reevaluate the state's emergency procedures to prevent a recurrence of the false alert, which caused widespread panic and confusion in the state.<sup>[21]</sup>

On February 22, 2019, President Trump appointed Ige to the bipartisan Council of Governors, on which Ige will serve as co-chair.<sup>[22]</sup>

### Thirty Meter Telescope

Ige has allowed the Thirty Meter Telescope to be built on Mauna Kea. Some protesters have called for his impeachment because of this. On July 18, 2019, an online petition titled "Impeach Governor David Ige" was posted to Change.org.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Electoral history

### 1992

Hawaii House of Representatives 34th district Democratic primary, 1992				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b> (incumbent)	2,907	86.31	
Democratic	Gloria "Moana" May	461	13.69	

Hawaii House of Representatives 34th district general election, 1992				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b> (incumbent)	5,758	82.55	
Republican	Monte Rae Parker	1,217	17.45	

### 1994

Hawaii State Senate 17th district general election, 1994				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b>	11,866	75.49	
Republican	Stef Davis	3,852	24.51	

### 1998



Governor David Ige and First Lady Dawn Ige ride in the Kamehameha Day Parade, 2016



Governor Ige with U.S. Navy admiral John Richardson at the 75th Commemoration Event of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu, 2016



Ige with President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump in 2020

Hawaii State Senate 17th district general election, 1998				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b> (incumbent)	13,487	84.11	
Libertarian	Robert Grayson	2,548	15.89	

## 2002

Hawaii State Senate 16th district general election, 2002				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b> (incumbent)	N/A	100.00	

## 2004

Hawaii State Senate 16th district general election, 2004				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b> (incumbent)	N/A	100.00	

## 2008

Hawaii State Senate 16th district general election, 2008				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b> (incumbent)	N/A	100.00	

## 2012

Hawaii State Senate 16th district general election, 2012				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b> (incumbent)	14,156	79.26	
Republican	Mike Greco	3,705	20.74	

## 2014

Hawaii gubernatorial Democratic primary, 2014				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b>	157,050	67.35	
Democratic	<u>Neil Abercrombie</u> (incumbent)	73,507	31.52	
Democratic	Van "Tanaban" Tanabe	2,622	1.12	

Hawaii gubernatorial election, 2014				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige &amp; Shan Tsutsui</b>	181,106	49.45	
Republican	<u>Duke Aiona</u> & Elwin Ahu	135,775	37.08	
Independent	<u>Mufi Hannemann</u> & Les Chang	42,934	11.72	
Libertarian	Jeff Davis & Cynthia "Lahi" Marlin	6,395	1.75	

2018

Hawaii gubernatorial Democratic primary, 2018				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige</b>	124,528	51.4	
Democratic	Colleen Hanabusa	107,583	44.4%	
Democratic	Ernest Carvalho	5,659	2.3%	
Democratic	Wendell Ka'ehu'ae'a	2,293	0.9%	
Democratic	Richard Kim	1,575	0.6%	
Democratic	Van Tanabe	775	0.3%	

Hawaii gubernatorial election, 2018				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Democratic	<b>David Ige &amp; Josh Green</b>	244,814	62.7	+13.25
Republican	<u>Andria Tupola</u> & Marissa Kerns	131,604	33.7	-3.38
Green	Jim Brewer & Renee Ing	10,112	2.6	N/A
Nonpartisan	Terence Teruya & Paul Robotti	4,062	1.0	N/A

[24]

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## External links

- [Governor of the State of Hawai'i](http://governor.hawaii.gov/) (<http://governor.hawaii.gov/>) official government site
- [David Ige for Governor](http://www.davidige.org/) (<http://www.davidige.org/>) official campaign site
- [David Ige](https://curlie.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/Hawaii/Government/Executive/Governor_David_Ige) ([https://curlie.org/Regional/North\\_America/United\\_States/Hawaii/Government/Executive/Governor\\_David\\_Ige](https://curlie.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/Hawaii/Government/Executive/Governor_David_Ige)) at [Curlie](#)
- [Profile](#) (<https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/3406>) at [Vote Smart](#)
- [Appearances](https://www.c-span.org/person/?davidige) (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?davidige>) on [C-SPAN](#)

Party political offices		
Preceded by <b>Neil Abercrombie</b>	<b>Democratic nominee for Governor of Hawaii</b> 2014, 2018	Most recent
Political offices		
Preceded by <b>Neil Abercrombie</b>	<b>Governor of Hawaii</b> 2014–present	Incumbent
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
Preceded by <b>Mike Pence</b> as <i>Vice President</i>	<b>Order of Precedence of the United States</b> Within Hawaii	Succeeded by <b>Mayor of city</b> in which event is held
		Succeeded by <b>Otherwise Nancy Pelosi</b> as <i>Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
Preceded by <b>Mike Dunleavy</b> as <i>Governor of Alaska</i>	<b>Order of Precedence of the United States</b> Outside Hawaii	Succeeded by <b>Acting heads of executive departments</b>
		Succeeded by <b>Otherwise Walter Mondale</b> as <i>Former Vice President</i>

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